

THE STREET CAR HORSE'S LAMENT.

A jaded and wretched-looking street car horse came into the sanctum yesterday evening and gave the Khan the following verses, with a humble request that they be published that day. The poor fellow appeared very unhappy, and looked enviously at Shep, our own little pony, who was complacently eating his evening meal of chop stuff and oats outside, while the attentive Fred was industriously rubbing him down:

THE LAMENT.

Work, work, work,
Dragging the horrible cars—
Work, work, work,
Till our bodies are covered with scars;
Stag'ring and struggling to draw,
The dreadful wagon before,
Till our hearts are sick, and our heads are faint,
And our bodies are bruised and sore.

The dreadful streets are full
Of horrible ruts and holes,
And we often think as we thirst for drink,
If the street car men have souls.
Is this a Christian land?
Can this be Christian work?
Oh, then, to be far over the sea,
And owned by the barbarous Turk.

To be owned by a barbarous Turk
Afar in a heathen land,
For there the steed has a friend indeed,
And eats from his master's hand;
But here in this Christian place,
With Churches many and high,
A horse is cursed with work and thirst,
Till he lays him down to die.

Oh, for the good old home
In the farm-yard far away.
Oh, for the breezy fields,
And the fragrant meadow hay;
And oh, for the farmer's girl,
My friend that used to be,
If she knew my plight, she'd weep to-night,
And grieve and mourn for me.

Work, work, work,
Through the wet and the murderous street,
Work, work, work,
Till we barely can stand on our feet,
Straining and striving for breath
The terrible wagons before,
Till our hearts are faint, and our heads are sick,
And our bodies are bruised and sore.

—Toronto World.

The Soudance Dance.

A TRULY ORIENTAL ENTERTAINMENT.

In the last letter the *Daily News* received from its celebrated war correspondent in the Soudan, Mr. Edmond O'Donovan, he thus describes the fantasias danced by the native Soudanese women:—"Dinner parties are few and far between, you may be sure, but I attended one last Sunday, to which General Hicks and staff were bidden, given by Colonel Marcopolo Bey, Under Secretary for European Affairs. After dinner we enjoyed our coffee *al fresco* in the cool lantern lit garden. The evenings in the Soudan are cool and pleasant and the climate is no more thought of. With cigarette or pipe we enjoyed ourselves but we were unprepared for the truly Oriental entertainment that was to follow. As we sat puffing away on easy chairs we suddenly heard singing from several female voices, in a monotone key, accompanied by a clapping of hands. Then emerging from the shade of the trees we perceived a group of native women. With a wriggling gait and measured step a dark girl, with head thrown back and chest and shoulders bare, approached us. On she came, with contortions which, if not graceful, did great credit to her muscular powers. She was soon joined by four or five more companions. Nearer and nearer they all danced towards us—if one may call their peculiar antics 'dancing'—till their close proximity became anything but desirable or agreeable. Their hair alone, steeped as it was in rancid grease, without going into further personal details, gave an atmosphere the reverse from fragrant. Some of us fortunately had small iron tables in front of us, with which we formed barricades. The helpless condition of those without these safeguards, hemmed in to suffocation by the redolent crown of swarthy nymphs, was ludicrous in the extreme. At last they retired, perceiving that they were not fully appreciated, and commenced to prepare for a dance still more animated. During the performance of this 'rachat,' a girdle from which long stripes of leather hang, is the only costume; but it was intimated to the troupe that we could dispense with the rest of the entertainment. These girls, we were told by our host, are hired for every grand entertainment, and not a night passes he said, that they are not engaged for some grand feast. They are indispensable at a marriage or birth celebration. Now I have attended 'nautes' in India, where the girls are pretty and the dancing extremely graceful. I have witnessed, too, the dancing of many semi-civilized nations in different parts of the world. In all of these no matter how peculiar they may be, there is some natural gracefulness infused, something of interest to note, something fascinating or even romantic, but the grotesque and coarse 'fantasias,' as they call them, of the Soudanese women are simply to my idea, repulsive and utterly devoid of grace."

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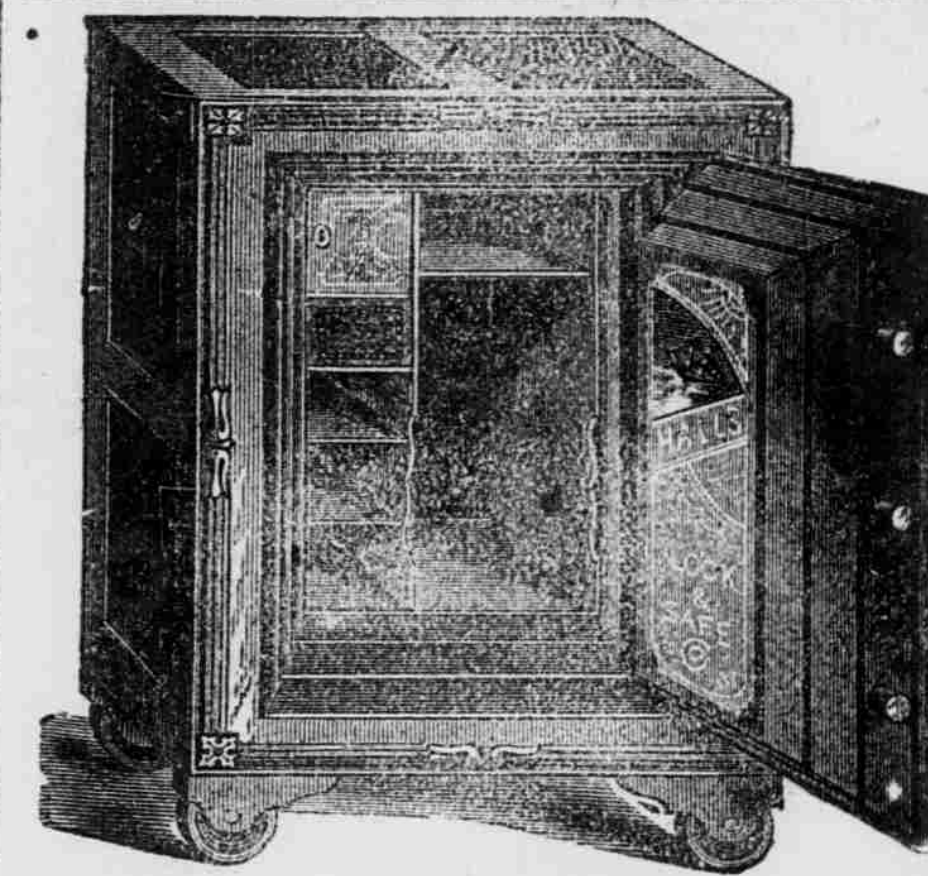
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